

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted with the Applicant's Request for Continued Examination pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.114(a).

In the Notice of Allowance mailed April 14, 2003, the Examiner allowed the application with claims 1, 6-13, 15-17, 19-26, 28-29 and 31-32. The Applicant has elected to take further action in this application by filing concurrently with this Amendment a Request for Continued Examination, together with payment of the applicable fees. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment and examination of the claims, as amended, is respectfully requested.

In this amendment, claims 1, 17, 31 and 32 are amended to delete the limitation, "wherein the ultrasonic vibration ranges from 40 kHz to 50 kHz," that was added to each by Examiner's amendment in the Notice of Allowance dated April 14 2003. In addition, claims 5 and 18, canceled by the Examiner in the same amendment, are added back in as new claims 39 and 40.

In this Amendment, independent claim 1 is further amended to include the limitations of dependent claims 8 and 9, and therefore dependent claims 8 and 9 are canceled. Dependent claim 11 is rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of independent claim 1 and dependent claim 12, and therefore dependent claim 12 is canceled. Independent claim 17 is further amended to include the limitations of dependent claims 21 and 22, and therefore dependent claims 21 and 22 are canceled. Dependent claim 24 is rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of independent claim 17 and dependent claim 25, and therefore dependent claim 25 is canceled. New claims 33-38 are added to further protect the invention disclosed in the application. Claims 6-7, 15-16, 19-20 and 28-29 remain unchanged.

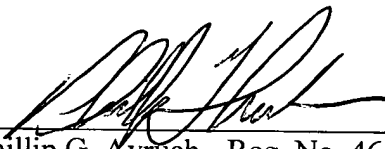
The applicant believes that the claims, as amended, distinguish over the prior art of record, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice of allowance, with claims 1, 6-7, 10-11, 13, 15-17, 19-20, 23-24, 26, 28-29 and 31-40 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel for the applicant to arrange such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

September 29, 2003

Date


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